

Department of Economic Initiatives

Mission

The Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI) leverages County resources and develops policy recommendations to foster economic development and position Fairfax County to be an economically competitive and prosperous community. Areas of focus include supporting catalytic public-private development, enhancing the small and local business ecosystem, and building innovative programs to support economic diversification and key economic assets. High level goals include:

- Provide strategic guidance and coordination with respect to the County's economic, community and business development goals;
- Cultivate a positive environment for the development and growth of a diverse and prosperous local economy;
- Facilitate development through public-private partnerships that address strategic priorities, meet County goals and maximize value; and,
- Foster an entrepreneurial and innovative ecosystem within the County and the region.

Focus

DEI was created in FY 2020 to consolidate staff and programs dedicated to local economic and business development initiatives and priorities. Through the Economic Success Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, more focus had been placed on activities to maintain, diversify, and enhance economic prosperity in Fairfax County communities. The importance of such attention was affirmed during the community engagement phase of the County's strategic planning process in 2018 and 2019 with "Economic Opportunity" being identified as one of the County's nine strategic priority areas. DEI was created to effectively and efficiently focus attention on the continued and shared competitiveness of the local economy.

DEI continues the strategic work already underway and has also identified additional opportunities and needs to meet County economic development goals. This has included expanded focus on the need for cross-agency coordination for more efficient and effective execution of catalytic public-private partnerships, emphasis on the importance of small business and entrepreneurship as a pathway towards job growth and community prosperity, the link between economic competitiveness and emerging sectors in the green economy and smart communities, and the need to strategically support the significant military and federal assets located in the County.

Given these identified and emerging needs, DEI's work includes:

- Coordinate aspects of public-private partnerships and catalytic redevelopment opportunities;
- Support economic incentive or public financing analysis;
- Lead County PPEA (Public-Private Educational Facilities and Infrastructure Act) review and response;
- Operate the Business Experience (BizEx) program to help small businesses navigate regulations;
- Organize and promote resources for businesses and entrepreneurs to start and grow a business;
- Manage small business grant and loan programs for the County;

- Develop economic innovation pilot projects;
- Lead County engagement and support on economic development strategy creation and implementation;
- Research and structure programs that support emerging economic sectors and meet Fairfax County strategic goals;
- Assist in the creation of centers that stimulate community development and entrepreneurship;
- Support key military and federal economic assets located in the County;
- Activate county-owned property to support entrepreneurship and placemaking.

Pandemic Response and Impact

In FY 2020, DEI emerged as the County agency to lead COVID-19 business support initiatives and economic recovery. Some of that work will continue into FY2022, including:

- Developing, promoting, and overseeing the \$2.5 million Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Microloan Fund.
- Developing, promoting, and overseeing the \$53 million Fairfax RISE: COVID-19 Small Business and Non-Profit Relief Grant Program.
- Leading an Economic Recovery Framework and Action Plan for business retention and economic competitiveness.

Budget and Staff Resources

Category	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2021 Revised	FY 2022 Advertised
FUNDING				
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	\$1,020,766	\$1,166,572	\$1,166,572	\$1,246,145
Operating Expenses	56,043	49,908	133,908	151,108
Total Expenditures	\$1,076,809	\$1,216,480	\$1,300,480	\$1,397,253
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	11 / 11	11 / 11	11 / 11	12 / 12

FY 2022 Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2022 program:

Economic Opportunity Workload \$80,773

An increase of \$80,773 and 1/1.0 FTE new Management Analyst II position, including \$79,573 in Personnel Services and \$1,200 in Operating Expenses, is to address growing workload requirements associated with the economic opportunity program and recovery initiatives. It should be noted that an associated increase of \$39,365 is included in Agency 89, Employee Benefits. For further information on Fringe Benefits, please refer to the Agency 89, Employee Benefits, narrative in the Nondepartmental program area section of Volume 1.

